l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



## CHAP. V.

### *Of their* HOUSHOLD FURNITURE, *and other neceſſary Utenſils.*

ALL the *Kamtſchatka* houſhold furniture conſiſts in diſhes, bowls, troughs, and cans made of birch bark. As theſe people have not the uſe of metals, we think it is proper to explain, how without the uſe of inſtruments of iron, they are able to perform their houſhold work, ſuch as building, ſawing, making of fire, dreſſing their victuals; being all the while ſo ignorant that they can ſcarcely count ten. How powerfully does neceſſity work upon the moſt inſenſible minds!

Before the arrival of the *Ruſſians* the *Kamtſchadales* uſed ſtones and bones inſtead of metals, out of which they made hatchets, ſpears, arrows, needles, and lances. Their hatchets were made of the bones of whales and rein-deer, and ſometimes of agate or flint ſtones. They were ſhaped in form of a wedge, and faſtened to crooked handles. With theſe they hollowed out their canoes, bowls, and troughs; but with ſo much expence of trouble and time, that a canoe would be three years in making, and a large bowl one year. For this reaſon, a large canoe or trough was in as great eſteem among them as a veſſel of the moſt precious metal and fineſt workmanſhip is with us; and the village which was in poſſeſſion of ſuch valued themſelves extremely upon it, eſpecially if they were maſters of a bowl which would ſerve for more than one gueſt. Theſe bowls they dreſs their victuals in, and heat their broth by throwing red-hot ſtones into it.

Their knives were made of a greeniſh mountain chryſtal, ſharp-pointed, and ſhaped like a lancet, which was ſtuck into a

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



325 439 122 a needle. The *Japaneſe* certainly uſed to come and trade to the *Kurilſki* iſlands, for I found there a *Japaneſe* ſabre, a japanned waiter, and ſilver ear-rings, which could be brought from no other place.

321 531 Of all the curioſities made by theſe wild people with their ſtone knives and hatchets, nothing ſurpriſed me ſo much as a chain of whales' bones, found in an empty hut near the *Tchukotſkoi* Noſs, made of different links as ſmooth as if they had been turned, about a foot and a half long, and formed out of one tooth. It is very extraordinary that any of theſe wild people ſhould with nothing but ſtone inſtruments have been capable of making ſo curious a piece of workmanſhip, which was worthy of the beſt artiſt.

501 171 They have two methods of making their boats; one ſort of which is called *koaihtahta*, and the other *tahta*. The former do not differ from our fiſhermens' boats, except that the prow and ſtern are higher, and the ſides lower. The tahta has the prow and ſtern of an equal height; the middle is not bent out, but rather falls in, which makes it very inconvenient, eſpecially when there is any wind, as being very ſoon filled with water. They uſe the koaihtahta only upon the river *Kamtſchatka*, but the tahta in moſt other places. When any planks are ſewed upon the tahta they are called baidars, which are uſed by the inhabitants upon the *Bobrowoi* or Beaver ſea in purſuing the ſea animals. They ſplit theſe baidars, and ſewing them with whales' beards caulk them with moſs or nettles beat ſoft. The *Kuriles* of the iſlands and thoſe that live upon the *Lopatka* build the baidars with a keel, to which they ſew planks with whales' beard, and caulk them with moſs. In *Kamtſchatka* they make their boats of poplar wood only; but the *Kuriles*, having no proper wood of their own, are obliged to make uſe of what is thrown on ſhore by the ſea, and which is ſuppoſed to come from the coaſt of *Japan*, *America*, or *China*. The northern inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka*, the

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



the ſettled *Koreki* and *Tchukotſkoi*, for want of proper timber and plank, make their baidars of the ſkins of ſea animals. 171 501

Theſe boats hold two perſons, one of which ſits in the prow and the other in the ſtern. They puſh them againſt the ſtream with poles, which is attended with great trouble: when the current is ſtrong they can ſcarcely advance two feet in ten minutes; notwithſtanding which, they will carry theſe boats full loaded ſometimes 20 verſts, and, when the ſtream is not very ſtrong, even 30 or 40 verſts.

In the larger boats they can carry 30 or 40 pood; and when the goods are not very heavy, they lay them upon a float or bridge made between two boats joined together. They uſe this method in tranſporting their proviſions down with the ſtream, and alſo to and from the iſlands.

## CHAP. VI.

### *Of the* LABOUR *appropriated to the* DIFFERENT SEXES. 221 462

IN the ſummer time the men are employed in catching, drying, and tranſporting fiſh to their habitations; in preparing bones and ſour fiſh to feed their dogs: the women, in cleaning the fiſh, and ſpreading it out to dry; and ſometimes they go a fiſhing with their huſbands. After their fiſhing is over, they gather in the herbs, roots, and berries, both for food and medicine.

In the harveſt the men catch the fiſh that appear at that time, and kill fowl, ſuch as geeſe, ducks, ſwans, and the like; they teach their dogs to draw carriages, and prepare wood for their

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal



226 hunting the wild Kamchatka variety of reindeer. Fish, different species of salmon, ascend the Kamchatka rivers in such abundance that they amply satisfy the needs
251 in food. The Kamchadal have no time during the short fishing season to dry or smoke all the fish for the winter and the greater part of it is put in holes covered with stones and earth, and during the winter it is consumed in a decayed state by dogs as well as by men.

225 To a certain degree the Kamchadal of the western coast hunt sea mammals, but, not having skin boats, they do not go out to the sea, but kill those seals,
501 white whales (*Delphinopterus leucas*) and sea lions (seldom) which enter the mouths of rivers in order to catch the ascending fish. Thong nets are put up for that purpose. They also kill seals, spearing and shooting them at their rookeries.

231 Horned cattle and horses were imported into Kamchatka chiefly from the Okhotsk district, i. e., of the Yakut race. In spite of the fact that they are badly
492 cared for, they became acclimatized in Kamchatka and are a strong race of
179 domestic animals. The Kamchatka horses are small, short necked, wide breasted and with short legs. During the winter they become covered with long thick hair, particularly their legs. Horses are used only in summer—as riding and pack animals. During the winter they are set free and have to graze from under the snow; rarely are they given hay and they therefore turn wild and have to be captured in the summer and trained again for riding.

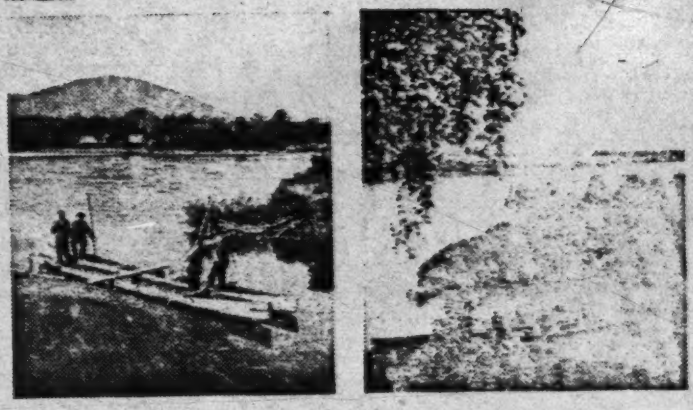
234 Cow's milk plays at present an important rôle in the food of the Kamchadal and Russian inhabitants of the country. They use sweet as well as sour milk and
272 pot cheese. Butter is rarely made, although the milk is rich in fat. But the Kamchatka cows give a small quantity of milk, about two or three quarts a day, as a result of scanty feeding in winter and of being kept in cold stalls. The Kamchadal make little hay, as the season for fishing and hay making coincide. One cow may be reckoned for every three inhabitants. The number of cattle may be estimated, according to the writer's census, at about 2,000.

179 Prior to the advent of the Russian the only domestic animal of the Kamchadal was the driving dog. The Kamchadal dog was regarded as the best and biggest
231 driving dog of Siberia; at present, as a result of unfavorable conditions of life, it has become small in size. The dogs work hard during the long winter, but during
492 the entire summer they are tied up, otherwise calves and colts and sometimes cows and horses are in danger of being torn by them. They are kept far from the village and poorly fed. Owing to the economic, climatic and topographic conditions of the country, the Kamchadal can not dispense with the driving dog, and every family has from eight to fifteen dogs. The number of dogs in 1911 in Kamchatka, according to my census, was more than 5,000. The old Kamchadal sledge for riding astride is no longer in use, the Russians having introduced the type of sledge used all over eastern Siberia. The dogs are harnessed to the sledge, being tied in pairs to a long thong.

There are no domesticated small animals, as goats or sheep and birds, in Kamchatka, as they would be exterminated by the ever hungry dogs, which very often find means to free themselves.

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 K...
[P.9L]
133





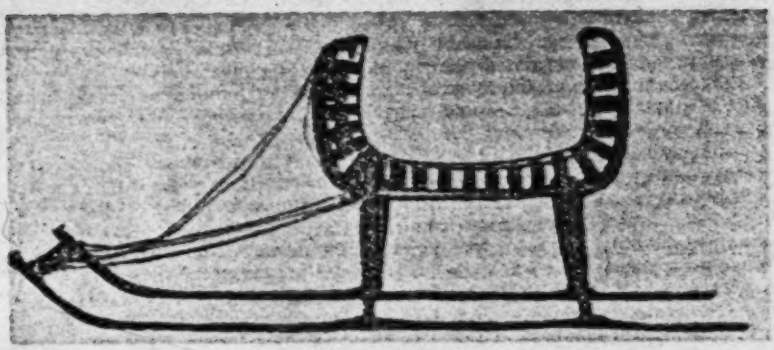
A. Two boats bridged in order to carry author's party across the Avacha River.
B. The same bridged boats carrying the author's cart to a small island and from there across the Avacha River to the village Savoiko. The horses are feared to swim across. The river is not deep and the laborers are punting the boats with long poles.
C. Three bridged boats carrying the author's party and laborers from the mouth of the Tigil River to its tributary, the Kulki River. The laborers are punting the raft along the bank.

501

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3



493



18th-century dogsled.

105

handle. Later the horn was replaced by an iron tip. Gathering plants was women's work. Fishing and hunting were men's occupations, but the preserving of fish was in the woman's domain, as were the spinning of thread for the nets from nettle, the weaving of mats, and sewing of clothes. Krasheninnikov reports that preparing food, tending the dogs and all carpentry work were done by men.

The Russians found among the Itel'mens a highly developed neolithic technology. "The former Kamchatka metals, almost until the coming of the Russians, were bone and stones. They were used in the making of axes, knives, spears, arrows, lancets and needles," Krasheninnikov writes about the Itel'mens. Rock crystal was also widely used for knives and tips. Fire was made with a wooden drill. Food, mainly fish and meat, was cooked even in the early 18th century in wooden troughs, into which red-hot stones were thrown.

The only domesticated animal of the Itel'mens was the dog. Later, harness dog-breeding of the so-called Eastern Siberian type developed in Kamchatka. However, until the middle of the 19th century, the Itel'mens used their ancient sled with two pairs of arched staves and a saddle-like seat. At the time of Krasheninnikov's visit, the Itel'mens had gliding skis, but used mostly woven snowshoes. River navigation was by bat—narrow boats, hollowed out of whole poplar trunks. For stability and greater carrying capacity, two of these boats were sometimes tied together and covered to make a platform. Krasheninnikov reports that it took the Itel'mens three years to make a bat with a stone adze.

The Russians called the Itel'men villages in the 18th century ostrozhkas, or "little forts." They were situated along river banks and consisted of winter and summer dwellings. The winter dwelling was a semiunderground yurt, as it was then called by the Russians, with an entrance through the smoke-opening in the roof. The dwelling also had a side exit, but this was used only by women and children. The summer dwelling of the individual family was the so-called balagan—a pyramidal, grass-covered tent set on high platforms resting on piles. The ancient dress of the Itel'mens resembled Koryak and Chukchi dress.

Such, in its general features, was the material culture of the Itel'mens in the beginning of the 18th century. Analogous to the low level of material production were the primitive forms of social relations.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal


000 ſuperior, joined our little troop, and we embarked upon *baidars**, in order to croſs the bay and reach Paratounka, where we were to be ſupplied with horſes to proceed on our route.

In five or ſix hours we arrived at this oſtrog, where the prieſt†, or rector of the diſtrict reſides, and whoſe church alſo is in this place‡. His houſe ſerved us for a lodging,

abode there, and prove to him that the Engliſh are not the only foreigners intereſted in his ſorrowful lot.

501 * *Baidars* are boats ſomewhat ſimilar to European ones, except that the ſides are made of planks from four to ſix inches wide, and faſtened together with withies or cords; and that they are caulked with moſs. The baidars are the only veſſels made uſe of to ſail to the Kurilles iſlands; they are commonly rowed, but will admit of a ſail.

† His name is *Feodor Vereſchaguin*; he ſucceeded his eldeſt brother Romanoff Vereſchaguin, who ſhewed ſo many civilities to captain Clerke, and whom I afterwards found at Bolcheretſk.

‡ His predeceſſor had informed the Engliſh that this pariſh was to be immediately transferred to the oſtrog of St. Peter

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



000 of bears, who are attracted by the fiſh with which theſe rivers abound. The inhabitants aſſured me, that fifteen or eighteen were frequently ſeen together upon theſe banks, and that whenever they hunted them, they were ſure to bring back one or two, at leaſt, in the ſpace of twenty-four hours. I ſhall ſoon have occaſion to ſpeak of their chace, and their weapons.

133 / 501 We quitted Paratounka and reſumed our journey; twenty horſes ſufficed for ourſelves and our baggage, which was not conſiderable, M. Kaſloff having taken the precaution of ſending a great part of it by water, as far as the oſtrog of Koriaki. The river Avatſcha has no tide, and is not navigable farther than this oſtrog; and not at all indeed, except by ſmall boats, called *batts*. The baidirs only ſerve to croſs the bay of Avatſcha, and can proceed no farther than the mouth of the river, where

133 their lading is put into theſe batts, which,
501 from the ſhallowneſs and rapidity of the water, are puſhed forward with poles. It was in this manner our effects arrived at Koriaki.

000 As to ourſelves, having croſſed the river Paratounka at a ſhallow, and winded along ſeveral of its branches, we left it for a way that was woody and leſs level, but which afforded us better travelling; it was almoſt entirely in valleys, and we had only two mountains to climb. Our horſes, notwithſtanding their burthens, advanced very briſkly. We had no reaſon to complain of the weather for a ſingle moment; it was ſo fair, that I began to think the rigour of the climate had been exaggerated; but ſhortly after, experience too well convinced me of its truth, and in the ſequel of my journey, I had every reaſon to accuſtom myſelf to the moſt piercing froſts, too happy when

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



000 entirely the view of it. The inhabitants of the country, whom I interrogated upon the ſubject, informed me we had juſt paſſed a bay of no very conſiderable width, and that the ſea was covered with ice as far as thirty werſts from the land.

361 At Khaluli, an oſtrog, ſituated upon a river of the ſame name, ſixty ſix werſts from Ouké, and at a ſhort diſtance from the ſea, I found but two yourts and twelve or thirteen balagans; but I had the pleaſure 281 of ſeeing a baidar covered with leather. 501 This boat was about fifteen feet long and four wide; the hull was made of planks tolerably thin, and croſſing each other; a longer and thicker piece of wood ſerved as the keel; the timbers were made faſt with leathern ſtraps; and the whole was covered over with ſeveral ſkins of ſea horſes and large ſea wolves.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



281 I particularly admired the manner in
501 which theſe ſkins were prepared, and the compactneſs with which they were ſewn together, ſo that the water could not penetrate into the boat. Its ſhape was ſomewhat ſimilar to ours, but leſs round, and therefore leſs graceful; it converged towards the extremities, ſo as to terminate in a point, and had a flat bottom. The lightneſs of the common baidars, which makes them liable to be overturned, doubtleſs gave riſe to this mode of conſtructing them, by which they acquire more weight. This boat was placed under a ſhed built on purpoſe to protect it from the ſnow. The toyon of Khaluli having given up his yourt to us, we ſlept in it, being unable to proceed till the next day. The wind had increaſed ſince our arrival, and did not abate till the middle of the night.

000 At ten o'clock in the morning we had loſt ſight

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



000 among them was no trace of Cook. Presently we came upon that imperturbable gentleman, placidly smoking a cigarette. He explained the matter in a few words:—"Very sorry, sir, but" (indicating the horse) "I've never been shipmates along o' one of them things before!"

133 136 501 We crossed the river in two dug-out canoes lashed together. These boats are as a rule small, and without attempt at elegance in shape, such as one sees in Borneo and other parts of the Malay Archipelago. Where the rivers are shallow, long poles are used to propel them, and indeed the natives always seem to prefer this implement to the paddle, wherever its use is possible. The Avatcha River is here about eighty yards in breadth; shallow for the most part, but with a centre channel about seven feet deep. It appeared 226 to be teeming with salmon. Stari-ostrog, situated on the right 251 bank, consists of ten huts and a large number of fish-drying sheds. 262 The long Kamschatkan winters, during which it is difficult to 361 procure food of any kind, and the consequent necessity of fish as an article of diet for almost every living creature in the settlements —the cows and horses even not excepted—create a need for a very large number of these buildings; and the consequence is that, to the eye of the new-comer, the villages appear very greatly larger than they really are. Scanty as the population of this wild country is, the amount of salmon annually consumed is absolutely enormous. At this little village, for instance, we were told that, during the season, 20,000 fish would be no uncommon catch for a single day! Here, however, owing to there being no other settlements higher up the river, they are permitted to stake the stream right across from bank to bank, and the number of fish thus obtained may probably be in excess of that in other places. The labour expended in gathering so abundant a harvest is, of course, very considerable, and during the season the inhabitants work day and night to get in a sufficient supply for the winter.

563 We were greeted by the headman and brought to his house, where we were regaled with milk, sour cream, coarse rye bread,

[Avacha--Analyst]

# CHAPTER VII.

000 KAMSCHATKA (*continued*).

We begin the river journey—Our rafts—Bad weather—Werchni Kamschatka—Melcova—A fish curral—Replenish our stores—Melcova church—*Kublankas* and *parkas*—Extortionate demands of the natives—Curious marl cliffs—Mashura—Rows with the people—Leprosy—Piles of driftwood—Onset of the cold weather—Tschappina—We sight the great volcanoes—Our camp-life—Wild fruits—Renewed quarrels with the natives—An awkward dilemma—We win the game.

157/576 On the morning of September 1st our horse-boys departed on their return journey to Petropaulovsky. Whether it is owing to the depression peculiar to the country, so enlarged upon by Kittlitz, I cannot say, but there seems to be an utter lack of geniality among these people. They took their wages resignedly, and bade us an unceremonious adieu. Handshaking—the kindly custom in Scandinavia and other nothern countries on the termination of an engagement between master and man—appears to be unknown in Kamschatka. Perhaps after all it was better, for I do not suppose that any of us felt any great degree of affection for Vodki, and at a later period of our journey, fist-shakings would have better expressed our feelings towards the greater proportion of the people with whom we were brought in contact.

Having despatched a letter to the yacht with instructions as to the date of departure for the rendezvous at the mouth of the river, we went down to the stream to make the necessary preparations for our voyage. The only species of boat used in the interior of the country is the dug-out canoe,—a clumsily-shaped craft made

322/501

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



322 from the trunk of the *topoyina* or poplar-tree. They are generally
501 about twenty-five or thirty feet long, by two feet in beam and depth, and are made to a great extent by burning out the interior of the tree-trunk selected, the finishing only being done by means of axes. We were able to procure five of these boats, and by their aid constructed two rafts in the following manner. We lashed three together side by side, with an interval of about one foot between each, taking care to place the weakest in the middle, and on this foundation placed a platform of poles and axe-hewn planks amidships, for a length of twelve or fourteen feet. Over this platform we constructed a rough shelter-hut, with a birch-bark roof sloping away behind, and the back and sides composed of water-proof sheets which could easily be furled or removed when necessary. The other raft, which carried Louis, Cook, and our two hunters, was made in the same way, but without the hut; and owing to its having but two canoes as a foundation, was laden fully up to where its Plimsoll-mark should have been. Our natives sat at the head and stern of each canoe, wielding paddles with a spade-like handle. They were also provided with poles, the use of which, wherever the river was sufficiently shallow, they seemed greatly to prefer. Shortly before noon our preparations were completed, our men waved their adieux to the remaining three-fourths of the inhabitants of Sherowmy, and pushing out into mid-stream, we began our descent of the river.

PADDLE.

133 Immediately below the settlement the branches of the Kams-
136 chatka reunite to form a stream nearly as wide as the Thames at Hampton Court, but scarcely more than a foot or two in depth. The current is rather swift, but without rapids, and the only dangers to be apprehended are the snags beneath the surface of the water. In the upper part of the river there are not many, but, lower down, the tremendous freshets which occur on the

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



000 Long before the huge paw had descended in a futile effort at revenge the little rascal was safely under cover, on the look-out for another opportunity, and the bear might just as well have attempted to catch a mosquito. A more thorough little pickle never existed, but, like all pickles, he was very popular, and when one morning he disappeared never to return there was great lamentation among our men. We never learnt his fate. Probably Misky had caught his tormentor after many months of vain endeavour, and had dined off him.

We left Petropaulovsky on September 26th with the intention of visiting the coast towards Cape Lopatka. Even as far south as Avatcha Bay the nights had become bitterly cold, and warned us to take our departure if we meant to avoid the heavy gales that visit these latitudes at the onset of winter. We steamed out of the harbour over a sea so calm that the glare of golden light which lit up the western sky was reflected in its surface as in a mirror. Never had the bay and its grand volcanoes looked more beautiful, and we stood watching the blaze of colour fading over the yellow birch-clad hills and the lonely pyramids of snow beyond until the last ray of daylight had disappeared and the full moon had turned the landscape to a harmony in black and silver.

361 133 501 Next morning a thick fog hid the coast from view, but cleared as the sun got up, and we were able to pick up our position. About noon we found ourselves off an island abreast of the Itterna Volcano, and steaming into a bay close by, we scanned the coast for signs of a sea-otter-hunters' village, of whose existence we had heard through Afanasi. Not a trace of it was to be seen, and we were beginning to think that we had misinterpreted our directions when a couple of little canoes shot out from behind a point and paddled towards us at a great rate. As these neared the ship we saw that they were built somewhat on the model of a Greenlander's *kayack*, although not broader than the narrowest of Thames cedar-wood canoes. How they can live in any ordinary sea is little short of miraculous, but we afterwards learnt from the people that two

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



501 or three boats invariably proceed in company when engaged in
133 hunting the sea-otter, and that during heavy weather they
361 lash them together with the paddles, by which means even a moderate gale can be safely encountered.

The natives piloted us into a small bay which, protected as it was by an island[1] and a long reef running out from the mainland, afforded fairly good shelter in all winds. At the head of it stood the village, almost invisible at a little distance, composed entirely of underground yourts, whose smoke-begrimed interiors were not inviting to a European.
224 We had hoped to find many skins of the sea-otter here, but
411 were disappointed, the whole village only producing two; we became possessors, however, of what, though less valuable, was of more interest,—the bow and arrows with which these animals are killed. The former is a tough piece of wood five or six feet in length, which is enormously strengthened by a band of plaited hide on the outer face, so tightly fixed as to give the bow when unstrung a curve in the opposite direction. The arrows are of wood for three-quarters of their length, fitted with feathers attached diagonally along the shaft, so as to produce a rotatory motion. The remaining portion is of walrus ivory, provided at the end with a socket, into which a barbed copper point is inserted. This is connected to the arrow by a long string of plaited sinew wound around the shaft. When the otter is hit, the barb, which is very loose, becomes at once detached, and if the animal gain the sea, its whereabouts is revealed by the arrow floating above it.

501 The canoes used by these people are of extremely graceful shape, and so light that they can be lifted in one hand with ease. They are constructed of a wooden skeleton

SEA-OTTER ARROW.

[1] This island, which is not marked in the chart, was named by us after Lieut. R. ff. Powell. It is in Lat. 51° 33′ N., Long. 157° 50′ E., and is about two miles in length. The coast at this part is placed too far to the eastward.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



501 framework of the slightest possible description, covered with the skin of the Sea-Lion (*Eumetopias*), beautifully sewn. The circular opening for the occupant is very small, and the ingress of water is prevented by a sack-like skin apron which is tightly tied beneath the arms. These craft are astonishingly crank, so much so that one of our party, by no means a tyro in such matters, found the greatest

OTTER-HUNTER'S CANOE, POWELL ISLAND.

possible difficulty in sitting one, even in smooth water. They are made in three sizes,—for one, two, or three persons.

000 We entered into negotiations for the purchase of one of these boats, as well as our want of a common language permitted. Vodky —the curse of Kamschatka—was the one idea of the natives, and we might doubtless have bought the craft, furnished with bow and arrows and all necessary gear, for three or four bottles of this spirit, had we felt inclined, for these people would sell their very souls for brandy were they only marketable commodities. The bargain was concluded eventually for thirty roubles, but though the dealing in money saved our consciences, it probably came to much the same in the end as if we ourselves had supplied the natives with spirit. Directly the snow was sufficiently hard for sledging, the owner of